

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-629

September 28, 1998

MAINE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY  
Revision to Terms and Conditions  
to Extend Low-Income Assistance  
Program through the 1998-1999  
Program Year

ORDER OF APPROVAL

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, Commissioner

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### **SUMMARY OF DECISION**

By this Order, the Commission approves Maine Public Service Company's (MPS) August 27, 1998 filing of proposed Terms and Conditions consisting of Sheets 61, Seventh Revision; 62, Seventh Revision; and 63, Seventh Revision so that MPS can continue its Low-Income Program for the 1998-1999 Program Year and increase the annual benefit levels to \$85, \$110, \$135, and \$160 for the various qualification categories.

### **DISCUSSION**

On August 12, 1998, MPS filed proposed Terms and Conditions to extend its Powerpact Low-Income Assistance Program for the program year 1998-1999 and to increase the annual benefit for each of four benefit levels by \$10.

Staff and MPS discussed the annual decrease in the number of program participants over the past four years. Based on these trends, it is unlikely that the increased benefit levels proposed in MPS's August 12 filing would result in spending the budgeted benefit amount of \$237,000. It was agreed that a \$20 increase in each benefit level would more closely achieve the budgeted spending level. On August 27, 1998, MPS submitted replacement Terms and Conditions Sheets 61, Seventh Revision; 62, Seventh Revision; and 63, Seventh Revision proposing to continue its low income program for the 1998-1999 program year with an increase of \$20 for each of the four benefit levels of the program.

Accordingly, we

### **O R D E R**

That Maine Public Service Company's proposed Terms and Conditions filed on August 27, 1998, consisting of Sheets 61, Seventh Revision; 62, Seventh Revision; and 63 Seventh Revision, as are hereby approved to become effective on the date of this Order.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 28th day of September, 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch  
Nugent

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.